

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1 to 7 without prejudice. Please accept amended claims 8, 14, 16, 18 and 20 as follows:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A method for preparing an alignment layer surface, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a surface on the alignment layer;
 - bombarding the surface with ions; and
 - quenching the surface with a reactive component to saturate dangling bonds on the surface.
9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the alignment layer includes diamond like carbon.
10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the step of quenching the surface with a reactive component includes the step of quenching the surface with a reactive gas to saturate dangling bonds on the surface.
11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the reactive gas includes at least one of hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, oxygen and water vapor.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the step of quenching the surface with a reactive component includes the step of quenching the surface with a reactive liquid to saturate dangling bonds on the surface.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the reactive liquid includes at least one of alcohol, water, hydrogen peroxide, carbon dioxide-saturated water, and liquid crystal.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing an alignment layer surface for liquid crystal displays, comprising the steps of:
providing a diamond like carbon surface;
bombarding the surface with ions from an ion beam;
saturating dangling bonds on the surface caused by the bombarding step; and
quenching the surface with a reactive component to saturate dangling bonds on the surface.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of bombarding includes the step of introducing a reactive gas to the ion beam.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim [[14]] 15, wherein the reactive gas includes at least one of [[nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen, fluorine]] silane [[and]] or tetrafluoromethane.

17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of bombarding the surface with ions includes the step of bombarding the surface with Argon ions and reactive gas ions.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the [[step of saturating dangling bonds includes the step of quenching the surface with]] reactive component is a reactive gas [[to saturate dangling bonds on the surface]].

19. (Original) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the reactive gas includes at least one of hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, oxygen and water vapor.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the [[step of saturating dangling bonds includes the step of quenching the surface with]] reactive component is a reactive liquid [[to saturate dangling bonds on the surface]].

21. (Original) The method as recited in claim 20, wherein the reactive liquid includes at least one of alcohol, water, hydrogen peroxide, carbon dioxide-saturated water, and liquid crystal.